

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Teen Charged with Murder in Homicide Investigation**

**SEGUIN, Texas** – A 14-year-old Seguin male has been charged with murder and evading arrest in connection with a homicide investigation. Since the suspect is a juvenile, his name is not being released and the information that can be provided is limited.

Seguin Police responded to a call for help at about 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 19. Upon arrival at the scene, located near the 1700 block of West New Braunfels Street, officers made contact with a male who stated that his girlfriend needed help. Officers then discovered the female on the ground in a nearby wooded area. The woman, 31-year-old Heather O'Neill, suffered from multiple injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene. O'Neill is from the Vermont area and does not have family in Seguin. Her out-of-state family has been notified and is being assisted by the Seguin Police Department Victim Liaison. An autopsy is scheduled for Wednesday morning.

As police began securing the scene, the suspect emerged from a nearby wooded area and ran from officers. The suspect was apprehended after a brief foot chase. Further investigation led to the charges. The suspect was arraigned Tuesday afternoon.

O'Neill and her boyfriend are believed to be transient and had makeshift housing in the woods. The victim's boyfriend is not charged in the case and is cooperating fully with authorities.

"Any time someone loses their life to violence, it's a terrible situation," Seguin Police Sergeant James Springer said. "This situation is especially disheartening considering the age of the suspect."

The investigation continues and anyone with information is encouraged to call to call the Seguin Police Department Criminal Investigations Division at (830) 401-2360 or Guadalupe County Crime Stoppers at 877-409-TIPS. Crime Stoppers tips are eligible for a cash reward.

This is Seguin's first homicide of 2015. No homicides occurred in 2014 and one occurred in 2013. According to statistics from mid-2014, the violent crime rate in Seguin has decreased 49% since 2009.

"We thank the Seguin Fire Department, Texas Department of Public Safety and Guadalupe County District Attorney's Office for their assistance on this case," Sgt. Springer continued.

**About the City of Seguin**

Seguin, Texas is located along Interstate 10, about 35 miles east of San Antonio. Seguin is big enough to boast a top-rated university and a state-of-the-art hospital. More than 25,000 residents enjoy a range of cultural, recreational and employment opportunities. Seguin's robust diversified economy features a steelmaker, a manufacturer of automotive parts, an engine manufacture and plants making roadside mowing equipment and building materials. In 2014, Seguin was proud to be selected by Siro Group USA as the future home of the company's North American manufacturing facility.

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